

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-17 remain in this application. Claims 3 and 11 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests re-examination.

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received along with a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d).

Claims 4-9 and 12-17 were objected to as being in improper form because of multiple dependency. These claims have been amended to comply with the dependency rules of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Segawa et al.* (US 4,066,413) in view of *Balko* (US 6,009,742). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Office Action indicated that Claim 3 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

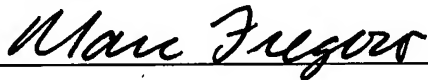
Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 3. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is allowable, along with Claims 4-9 which depend from and further limit Claim 1.

The Office Action indicated that Claim 11 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 11. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 10 is allowable, along with Claims 12-17 which depend from and further limit Claim 10.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all the claims remaining in the application are allowable, and requests that this application be passed to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail No. EV 632 760 636 US under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 15, 2006.

By: Marc Fregoso

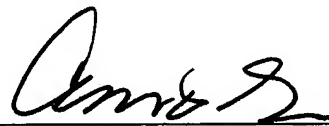


Signature

Dated: December 15, 2006

Very truly yours,

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